

REMARKS

Claims 1-3 and 14-15 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. No claims have been amended or added. Accordingly, claims 4-13 and 21-28 are currently pending in the application.

Priority

Applicants appreciate the Examiner's acknowledgment of the claim for priority and receipt of the certified priority document.

35 U.S.C. §112 and Claim Objections

The claims have been amended to overcome the Examiner's objections. The Examiner is hereby invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if any further changes are deemed necessary in order to speed the prosecution of this application.

35 U.S.C. §103

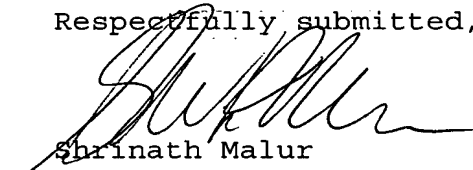
The rejection of claims 1-3 and 14-15 under 35 U.S.C. §103 has been rendered moot by the cancellation of these claims without prejudice or disclaimer in order to expedite the issuance of subject matter indicated as being allowable.

Applicants intend to add the subject matter of claims 1-3 and 14-15 by amendment to a divisional application of the present application. Therefore, the cancellation of such claims in this application should not be interpreted as a waiver of any rights to those claims.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants contend that the above-identified application is now in condition for allowance. Accordingly, reconsideration and reexamination are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



Shrinath Malur
Registration No. 34,663
Attorney for Applicants

MATTINGLY, STANGER & MALUR
1800 Diagonal Rd., Suite 370
Alexandria, Virginia 22314
(703) 684-1120
Date: March 31, 2004